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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/743,370

12/22/2003

Daniel Gold

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EXAMINER

CHEA, PHILIP J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2153

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/17/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/743,370

Applicant(s)

GOLD ET AL.

Examiner

Philip J. Chea

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2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/18/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-40 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 32-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. On page 32, paragraph 85 of the specification the Applicant has provided evidence that the Applicant intends the medium to include signals as such the claim is drawn to a form of energy. Energy is not one of the four categories of invention and therefore this claim is not statutory. Energy is not a series of steps or acts and thus is not a process. Energy is not a physical article or object and as such is not a machine or manufacture. Energy is not a combination of substances and therefore not a composition of matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takaoka et al. (US 2003/0085914), herein referred to as Takaoka.

As per claims 1,10,19,23,32, Takaoka discloses a system, as claimed, comprising:

a processor (see paragraph 50); and

a memory comprising program instructions (see paragraph 50), wherein the program instructions are executable by the processor to implement a zone visualization mechanism configured to:

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obtain zoning information for a plurality of Storage Area Network (SAN) objects in a SAN, wherein the SAN comprises one or more host systems, one or more storage devices, and one or more fabrics (see Fig. 8, host system [1021], storage devices [1041] and paragraph 63, where fibre channel ports indicate a fabric); and

in response to selecting a particular SAN object in the SAN (see paragraph 102, where a symbol of a storage device (i.e. SAN object) is moved (selected) by a pointing device), display zoning information for the selected SAN object, wherein the zoning information for the selected SAN object indicates one or more zones of the SAN of which the selected SAN object is a member (see paragraph 102, where the SAN object is moved into a generated area (a zone) on the screen, thereby displaying that the SAN object is a member of the zone).

As per claims 2,11,20,24,33, Takaoka further discloses that the displayed zoning information indicates logical zone membership for the selected SAN object (see paragraph 112).

As per claims 4,13,26,35, Takaoka further discloses another SAN object through which the selected SAN object is a member of the zone (see paragraph 102, where a computer port can be added to the same zone as a storage device).

As per claims 5,14,27,36, Takaoka further discloses that the indicated other SAN object is user selectable to display zoning information for the other SAN object, wherein the zoning information for the other SAN object indicates one or more zones of the SAN of which the other SAN object is a member (see paragraphs 92-93).

As per claims 6,15,28,37, Takaoka further discloses that each of the indicated one or more zones of the SAN of which the selected SAN object is a member is user-selectable to display zone centric information fro the selected zone, wherein the zone-centric information indicates one or more SAN objects that are members of the zone and relationships among the one or more SAN objects that are members of the zone (see paragraphs 62-63).

As per claims 7,16,29,38, Takaoka further discloses that the indicated one or more other SAN objects that are members of the zone are user-selectable to display zoning information for the one or

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more other SAN objects, wherein the zoning information for each of the one or more other SAN objects indicates one or more zones of the SAN of which the SAN object is a member (see paragraphs 62-63).

As per claims 8,17,30,39, Takaoka further discloses that the zone visualization mechanism is further configured to display the zone-centric information for the selected zone in graphical or textual format (see Fig. 8).

As per claims 9,18,31,40, Takaoka further discloses that the zone visualization mechanism is further configured to display the zoning information for the selected SAN object in the SAN in a graphical format or textual format (see Fig. 8).

As per claim 21, Takaoka further discloses that the displayed zoning information for each zone of which the selected SAN object is a member further indicates another SAN object through which the selected SAN object is connected to the zone, and wherein the system further comprises means for displaying zoning information for the other SAN object, wherein the zoning information for the other SAN object indicates one or more zones of the SAN of which the other SAN object is a member (see Fig. 8).

As per claim 22, Takaoka further discloses displaying zone-centric information for the indicated one or more zones of the SAN of which the selected SAN object is a member, wherein the zone-centric information for a zone indicates one or more SAN objects that are members of the zone and relationships among the one or more SAN objects that are members of the zone (see Fig. 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3,12,25,34 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaoka as applied to claims 1,10,19,23,32 above, and further in view of Bramhall et al. (US 2003/0195956), herein referred to as Bramhall.

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As per claims 3,12,25,34 , although the system disclosed by Takaoka shows substantial features of the claimed invention (discussed above), it fails to disclose that the displayed zoning information further indicates one or more zone aliases of the SAN of which the selected SAN object is a logical or physical member.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Takaoka, as evidenced by Bramhall.

In an analogous art, Bramhall discloses a system for ensuring the unique zoning membership representation of a network environment (see Abstract). Further showing an indication of a zone alias that a SAN object is a logical or physical member of (see paragraph 33).

Given the teaching of Bramhall, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Takaoka by employing a zone alias indicator, such as disclosed by Bramhall, in order to add or remove a group of zone participants by alias.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip J. Chea whose telephone number is 571-272-3951. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4:00 (1st Friday Off).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Philip J Chea
Examiner
Art Unit 2153

PJC 6/27/07



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